(c) the number of small scale units that have been granted the amount; and

(d) the amount earmarked and spent so far under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Scheme of reimbursement of ISO-9000 Certification Expenses to Small Scale Industries has been in operation since March, 1994. The scheme envisages reimbursement of 75% of expenses of acquiring ISO-9000 Certification or its equivalent limited to Rs.75,000/- in each case. The scheme has been extended up to 31st March, 2007.

(c) and (d) Since the launching of the scheme, 2398 small scale industries have been granted reimbursement for an amount of Rs.14.60 Crores up to 30th June, 2002. During 10th Plan, an allocation of Rs.40.50 Crores has been proposed.

Special mission satellite

1758. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special mission satellite christened 'Edusat' is being built to speed up the Nation's distance education revolution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the time frame fixed for its launch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) A dedicated satellite called 'EDUSAT' for the nation's distance education programme is under planning. It will consist of about (i) 6 Ext-C band transponders and (ii) 5 Ku-band high power transponders-4 with regional coverage and 1 with India coverage. Realisation of EDUSAT will take about 18 months from the date of approval.

Utilization of MPLADS fund in Rajasthan

1759. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Members of Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan, who

retired in April, 2002 and could not fully utilize the amount under MPLAD Scheme;

(b) the unutilized amount in each case; and

(c) how Government propose to disburse this money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) None.

(b) and (c) Do not airse.

Administrative/financial sanction for MPLADS fund

†1760. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken in administrative and financial sanction after the recommendation made by MP for MP's Local Area Development Scheme and the criteria thereof;

(b) the number of District Collectors in the country who do not follow this criteria;

(c) the reasons for not following the criteria by the District Collectors of Dhaulpur and Bharatpur, and what action would be taken against these officers; and

(d) whether the District Officers are indulged in corruption in sanctioning MPLADS Fund, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Para 3.2 of the Guidelines on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme Provides that, as far as possible, all sanctions for works should be accorded within 45 days from the date of receipt of a proposal from the Member of Parliament concerned.

(b) No instance of abnormal delay in according sanctions for MPLADS works has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(c) No report of undue delay in sanctioning of works under the MPLAD Scheme in the districts of Dhaulpur and Bharatpur has been received. As such, the question of taking action against any officer does not airse.

(d) No specific instance of corruption in sanctioning of MPLADS works has been reported.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.